



NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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George Washington, Saipan battle groups to conduct Joint Task Force Exercise 00-2

By 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — More than 15,000 service members will participate in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 00-2, May 10-20. This exercise is directed by the Commander in Chief, Joint Forces Command, Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr. The exercise will be conducted by Vice Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet and commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic. When in a training role, he is designated as commander, Joint Task Force 950.

Joint Task Force Exercise 00-2 will feature the USS George Washington (CVN 73) Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) and the USS Saipan (LHA 2) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

This JTFEX replicates the emerging threats and operational challenges U.S. military forces may encounter around the world. The exercise is designed to meet the requirement for quality, realistic training to fully prepare our forces for joint operations when forward deployed. Participating forces will train using equipment and systems which incorporate the latest advances in technology, and which support the full range of capabilities that may be needed in various geographic areas where forces serve during their deployment.

"This Joint Task Force Exercise will train operational units from all services in a



USS Saipan (LHA 2)

U.S. Navy photo

battlefield environment that is designed to specifically prepare them for the types of challenges the military faces today," Fallon said. "It provides our battle group and amphibious ready group units valuable experience in operations with forces of other services, while giving them an opportunity to refine joint warfighting skills. It also provides a challenging test of their capabilities and completes the training and evaluation process which supports certifying the battle group and ARG as 'ready to deploy.'"

The exercise will take

place in the waters off Virginia and North Carolina. It will provide "graduate level" training for CVBG and ARG units before their deployment. During the exercise, participating forces will be tested on their ability to deploy rapidly, conduct joint operations during a crisis and refine tactics, techniques and procedures in joint force operations.

Forces will train in a simulated high-threat environment that involves air, naval and ground operations and which incorporates surveillance, rescue, and other operations such as maritime

interdiction, embassy support and non-combatant evacuation.

Participating in the JTFEX will be units from the U.S. Atlantic Fleet including the George Washington CVBG and Saipan ARG. In addition, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and elements of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army will participate.

For more information about USS George Washington, go to <http://www.airlant.navy.mil/Carriersbar.htm>. More about USS Saipan can be seen at <http://www.spear.navy.mil/ships/lha2>.

Heroic WWII Navy Corpsman honored at Twentynine Palms

By CNO Public Affairs

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (NNS) — On May 2, 1945, Hospitalman Apprentice First Class Robert E. Bush treated a critically wounded Marine while he fought off attacks by the Japanese atop a ridgeline on Okinawa. He received the Medal of Honor for his actions.

On May 2, exactly 55 years later, the Naval Hospital at Twentynine Palms, Calif., was renamed in Mr. Bush's honor as a bronze statue depicting the heroic scene atop that ridgeline was unveiled.

During the ceremony, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson pointed out it was especially fitting that Bush's valor be memorialized at Twentynine Palms, home of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

"It is so very appropriate that, in the midst of this special place where we fight and we train and we hone our combat skills, this hospital will forever carry the name of this wonderful man," the CNO said.

Johnson said that the chapter about Bush in Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest

Generation," should be required reading for all Americans born after WWII.

"Years before honor, courage and commitment became the core values of our Navy and Marine Corps, Doc Bush was living them," the CNO said. "He is the very embodiment of those values."

When it was his turn to speak, Bush highlighted the contributions of all corpsmen during the battle.

"Believe me, I wasn't doing any more than every corpsmen on the island was doing," Bush told the audience gathered to honor him.

"I served with honor because the Navy's honor was mine to guard and cherish," said Bush.

Johnson said that we should take every opportunity to remember and be grateful for the members of Bush's generation.

"These men and women really won for us the world we have today. And after they did that, they came home and they built this country," the CNO said.

MCPON visits Hawaii Sailors

By Journalist 1st Class Gerard Sekerak, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) — The specific topics may change, but the overall issue remains the same — how can the Navy improve the quality of life for its Sailors?

That was the theme of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), Machinist's Mate Master Chief(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt, who visited Pearl Harbor April 21-24.

Herd visited Hawaii to attend the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Centennial Ball, April 22. Before leaving Hawaii, he visited Sailors at Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, Hawaii, April 24 to give them a hint of some of the changes the Navy is making to reduce their workload.

"Everybody in the chain of command wants to do the right thing for Sailors," Herdt said to the hundreds who came out to hear him. "My big job right now, is trying to manage these changes so that we're not changing everything all of a sudden. We need to make changes with caution, and make sure we are changing in a way that will cause no harm."

According to Herdt, the Navy is looking into investing in non-stick cookware, longer lasting paint for ships and contracted food service workers to more efficiently make use of manpower so Sailors perform the jobs they volunteered to do.

Herd also addressed how the Navy is improving the advancement program for Sailors. He said that after eliminating the requirement for Personal Advancement Requirements (PARS), the Navy is focusing

MCPON, FMCs go world-wide to answer Sailors' questions

By Journalist 1st Class David Luckett, MCPON Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Virtually every Sailor has started a sentence with, "I wonder why the Navy...?" at least one time in their careers. Now they can get the question answered.

Sailors around the world will soon have the opportunity to get the straight scoop on issues facing them and their families. The Naval Media Center's "Navy Live," in conjunction with LIFELines 2000 and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), will host Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), Machinist's Mate Master Chief(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt in the first-ever live world-wide all-hands call Tuesday, May 9.

The Navy's three fleet master chiefs,

Atlantic Fleet's Machinist's Mate Master Chief(SS) Tom Hefty, Pacific Fleet's Yeoman Master Chief(SS/AW) Rod Rodriguez, and Naval Forces Europe's Machinist's Mate Master Chief(SS/AW) Bob Hallstein, will join Herdt. The show will air from 11 a.m. to noon Eastern time on several outlets including Direct-To-Sailor (DTS) television, LIFELines 2000 web site, numerous local cable access channels and video teleconference sites.

Sailors anywhere in the world can get their questions answered via many means. They can call in or fax their questions during the show; or email their questions

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Navy upgrades to Navy Marine Corps Intranet

By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Gunder, Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Over the past several years, different commands within the Navy have tried to keep up with the technological revolution by building up computer networks with needed capabilities such as e-mail and Internet access. As a result, the Navy created a conglomeration of stand-alone systems that many times are incompatible, can't talk to each other and have different levels of security.

The Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) is an effort to remedy that. It is a strategic approach that will enable individual units and the entire Department of the Navy to effectively communicate in the modern age.

By awarding a contract to a private contractor to build, maintain and upgrade shore-based information technology (IT), the Navy can focus on its core mission and avoid playing "catch-up" with technology. Several companies are in the final competition phase of the five-year contract that will be awarded this summer.

The goal of NMCI is to replace the department's numerous shore-based networks with one secure interoperable network that provides voice, video and data services to all Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Through a multi-year service contract, NMCI will deliver comprehensive, end-to-end information services. This will significantly enhance security, improve interoperability and increase access to information.

NMCI is the shore-based counterpart of the Navy's Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT-21) and the Marine Corps' Tactical Network (TDN). NMCI and these initiatives will link the Marine Corps and Navy afloat units with commands ashore.

"The reason for the contract is simple," said Cmdr. Jay Caler, Shore Network Requirements officer for the Navy's Department of Space, Information, Warfare and Command and Control (N6). "Experts in commercial industry are developing the real cutting edge technology," he explained. "NMCI will allow the Department of the Navy to acquire new

and improved capabilities faster through commercial development."

Each installation will purchase IT services in much the same way as it does telephone service, electricity or any other utility. The installation, or "customer," will be charged a fixed price per user, or "seat." The NMCI service contract will provide a basic service to all users, allowing for tailored upgrades and added capabilities to be purchased on an individual basis as line items on the contract.

The customer might require classified and unclassified Internet access but would have no need for video teleconferencing. They get what they pay for. It's all integrated by a single prime contractor.

Several areas of IT are to be handled by the NMCI, according to Caler. They include initial implementation; refresh rate; training; consistent look and feel; and contractor-maintained infrastructure.

"Technology changes over every 18 months," said Caler. "One of the prime contractor's responsibilities will be to keep the technology up-to-date, or 'refreshed,' saving the base CO the headache and the funds he would've spent in the first place."

"This new initiative should allow personnel who are serving out of their rate to return to that specialty, increasing their prospects for advancement," added Cmdr. Nancy Doss of the Program Executive Office (Information Technology). She also explained that since all the IT will be coming from one source, it will have a consistent look and feel everywhere, minimizing the time it takes someone to learn a new system.

Another advantage NMCI will provide is computer maintenance and repair. "That can be a real burden for some commands," explained Caler. "That burden can be even worse if the only guy



that understood the software or maintained the computers just transferred.

"You need that computer to do the job," he explained, "but if you don't have a LAN (local area network) administrator at your command, you're in trouble. The real big thing about NMCI is that the service will be available to you. You don't have to rely on yourself to keep your system running. So it will remove a lot of the frustration from the Sailor and the CO."

The size of data "pipelines," or bandwidth is another critical aspect of IT enhanced with NMCI. The contractor will maintain and upgrade the pipelines as technology changes. Once ships tie up in port, they can "plug in" to NMCI and take advantage of the increased bandwidth for all kinds of voice and data services.

NMCI will improve the quality of life for Sailors and Marines, both ashore and at sea, by improving access to and interoperability with existing and future web-based information and personnel related services throughout the Department of the Navy.

The NMCI service area includes the continental U.S.; Hawaii; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; and Keflavik, Iceland. The transition to NMCI will begin this summer. Basic services are planned to be up and running for all users by the end of 2001, with full service in place by the end of 2002.

To learn more about NMCI and how you will fit into the overall plan, go to <http://www.peo-it.navy.mil>.

Navy responds to Cretan flood disaster

By Paul Farley, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

SOUDA BAY, Crete (NNS) — A disaster assistance team from NSA Souda Bay, Crete, responded April 22 to a request for help from Greek officials dealing with the aftereffects of torrential rains on the Mediterranean island.

The mountainous region in the southwest was hit particularly hard by recent heavy rains, washing away roads and bridges, filling houses and shops with mud and destroying fresh water supply lines.

The team from Souda Bay consisted of U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 detachment Souda Bay. With their earth moving equipment loaded on tractor-trailers, the team, led by Equipment Operator 1st Class Roger Wiley of Palm Beach, Fla., had to make their way slowly through the narrow, winding mountain roads to the flood area three hours from the support activity.

"Our primary mission was

to restore road access to homes and villages cut-off by washed out roads and bridges," said Wiley. "We did this successfully in the areas that we were assigned to work. All of my people that were involved feel pretty good about being able to help. I hope the residents in the area get their homes fixed and can get back to a normal life. This was a devastating storm that sent an awful lot of water and rocks through a very large area."

Although no serious

injuries were reported, numerous cars and trucks were carried away as rocks were swept down through the area by the deluge. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and strewn across the trail of the violent waters. Total damages from the flooding, which include the destruction of this year's olive crop, are estimated to reach several million dollars.

The Navy team efforts were concentrated in the

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on ways to provide quicker exam results, tests that focus more on military knowledge rather than technical knowledge and developing career paths for ratings to help guide Sailors through their Navy careers.

The MCPON encouraged Sailors to get at least a bachelor's degree before leaving the Navy and to stay fit. He added that the new Physical Readiness Training (PRT) instruction is expected to be released shortly.

He also hinted that the Thrift Savings Plan could be a reality, and that researchers are still searching for a way to make it work. In the meantime, Sailors should start some type of investment plan and make regular contributions.

Herdt fielded questions from Sailors who wanted to know if they would join the ranks of a growing number of rating-specific Sailors being offered Selective Reenlistment Bonuses (SRBs), and if the gap between frocking and receiving pay for advance-

ments would shrink.

Herdt said, "both will remain the way they are now, until the Navy can find more funding to improve them."

The MCPON stressed the importance of including every Sailor's spouse in the detailing and reenlistment process. "You need to bring the spouse in and sit them both down and explain it to both of them, so when they go home they can talk from the same sheet of paper," he said.

In closing, Herdt offered thanks to the Sailors in Hawaii. "We can say that the home of the submarine force is in Groton, Conn., or we could say that the home of the surface force is in San Diego or Norfolk," he said. "But we can also say that the front line is right out here in Hawaii. You are the front line. You are what makes everything work," Herdt concluded.

For more information about the U.S. Navy in Hawaii, go to <http://www.hawaii.navy.mil>.

Freefalling



Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class Mitch MacKenzie of Philadelphia, Pa., attached to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Five (EODMU-5), free falls from a U.S. Air Force C-130 "Hercules" during parachute certification training. EODMU-5 is operating in Yigo, Guam, in support of the multi-national joint forces training exercise, Tri-Crab 2000. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Marjorie McNamee

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villages of Elos, Strovles and Meli. In Elos, the main road leading out of the village was blocked by a mudslide and a large portion of the road had fallen into a ravine. The Seabees used their front-end loaders and dump trucks to load and haul the mud and rocks away.

At Strovles, a washed out bridge was temporarily replaced with a rock and earth structure that allowed the residents road access to and from their homes. The team finished their efforts at the village of Meli where they spent their Easter Sunday making repairs to washed-out portions of the main road leading in and out of the area.

Like all the members of the team, Construction Mechanic Constructionman Kevin Clark welcomed the opportunity to assist. "I've prepared equipment in the past that was to be used in disaster relief operations, but this was the first time that I was actually involved in the effort," said Clark, from Ririe, Idaho. "I was at all three areas that we worked at — I was the duty mechanic and went from site to site. We did get a lot done but I wish we could have stayed longer and helped more."

For more information about the U.S. Navy in Souda Bay, Crete, go to <http://aphrodite.souda.navy.mil>.

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before the show through the LIFELines 2000 web site at <http://www.lifelines2000.org>. The master chiefs will answer questions affecting the widest range of Navy families.

"It's very important to all four of us panel members to ensure Sailors get the right information," explained MCPON Herdt. "We've got an enormous amount of change occurring throughout the Navy today. Staying up to date with current policies is essential, but it's just as important to help Navy families understand why many of these changes occur."

"My goal for serving this office," said the MCPON, "is that when I advise our Navy's leaders on issues facing Sailors, they see those same Sailors standing right behind me. This show will help me better understand what is on their minds."

The show is airing while the fleet master chiefs are in Washington, D.C., with the force and CNO-directed master chiefs for the semi-annual CNO/MCPON Senior Enlisted Leadership Panel. The panel is comprised of master chiefs that represent every enlisted Sailor in the Navy.

VERTREP

A CH-46E "Sea Knight" helicopter picks up a pallet of ordnance from the flight deck of USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) for transfer to the flight deck of USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) during a vertical ammunition offload. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Byron Gilbert

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

- * Sailors on board USS Portsmouth (SSN 707) show off their submarine to actors from the new hit movie "U-571";
 - * USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) Sailors prepare for flight deck fires with a realistic land-based trainer in Yokosuka, Japan;
 - * Sailors on board USS Inchon (MCS 12) swing to a Latin beat when the television dance show "Caliente" broadcasts from the flight deck;
 - * Special agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service teach parents and teachers how to protect children from the dangers of the Internet and electronic mail.
- Compiled on tape #2000-19, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

**In naval history:
May 8, 1945**

World War II ends in Europe. Germany surrenders to the Allies after losing 800 submarines in the Battle of the Atlantic.

**Submarine Centennial
history:
May 10, 1960**

USS Triton (SSN 586) completes the first submerged circumnavigation of the Earth. The sub followed Ferdinand Magellan's route and covered more than 41,000 miles in just 84 days.

For more information on the Submarine Centennial, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial."

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